HISTORY

OF THE

PIONEER SETTLEMENT

OF

PHELPS & GORHAM'S PURCHASE,

AND

MORRIS' RESERVE.

TO WHICH IS ADDED, A

SUPPLEMENT OR CONTINUATION

OF THE PIONEER HISTORY OF

ONTARIO, WAYNE, LIVINGSTON, YATES AND ALLEGANY.

TOGETHER WITH

SKETCHES OF THE WAR OF 1812 UPON THE NIAGARA FRONTIER, AND EVENTS CONNECTED WITH THE COMPLETION OF THE ERIE CANAL.

BY O. TURNER,

AUTHOR OF "HISTORY OF HOLLAND PURCHASE" AND "PHELPS AND GORHAM'S PURCHASE — MONROE."

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it in peace or war, they must loose all their improvements, and houses on one side of it, those people must all be gone who do not obtain leave to become the King's subjects. What belongs to the Indians will of course, be secured and confirmed to them.

"CHILDREN: What farther can I say to you? You are witnesses that on our parts we have acted in the most peaceable manner, and borne the language and conduct of the people of the United States with patience. But I believe our patience is almost exhausted."*

[NO. 15.]

WILLIAM EWING'S LETTER TO GEN. CHAPIN — WAYNE'S VICTORY.

GENESEO, Sept. 17th, 1794.

ISRAEL CHAPIN, Esq., Sir:—Agreeable to your request, the 26th ultimo I left this place to go and see Capt. Brant, and bring him forward to Canandaigua if possible. As I passed through Buffalo Creek settlement, I was told by Red Jacket, one of the Seneca chiefs, that the Indians at that place, and the Six Nations in different parts of the country around, had not yet determined, whether they would attend the treaty at Canandaigua or not; that they were waiting for Capt. O'Bail (Cornplanter,) and other chiefs to come in, whose arrival was hourly expected, when they should determine what answer to send to your invitation, though himself and many others, from the first, was determined to attend your council fire. I was also told by young Jemison, a Seneca Indian, that Col. Butler left that place a few hours before I arrived, who had been in council with the Indians some days past, and that he was of an opinion that Butler was trying to stop the Indians, and he did not think they would go to Canandaigua. I from this place crossed the river to the British side, and proceeded down the river to Niagara Fort. I found the British had been much alarmed at Gen. Wayne's advancing into the Indian country. The news was that Wayne had an en-

* The authenticity of this speech of Lord Dorchester is denied by Chief Justice Marshall, and Mr. Sparks, in his Life and Correspondence of Washington, notes that denial without dissent. Hence it has been received as spurious, and Lord Dorchester, with his Government, has escaped the responsibility of having uttered such an unwarrantable document. The first copy was forwarded to President Washington by Governor Clinton, who did not doubt its genuineness. Neither did the President; since, in his letter to Governor Clinton, acknowledging its receipt, he states his reasons at large for dissenting from the opinions of those who were proclaiming it to be spurious. On the contrary, he declared that he entertained "not a doubt of its authenticity." Equally strong was he in the opinion, that in making such a speech, Lord Dorchester had spoken the sentiments of the British Cabinet, according to his instructions. On the 20th of May, the attention of the British Minister, Mr. Hammond, was called to the subject by the Secretary of State, Edmund Randolph, who remonstrated strongly, not only against the speech, but against the conduct of Governor Simcoe, who was then engaged in measures of a hostile character. Mr. Hammond replied on the 22d of May, rather tartly; and, what renders the denial of the speech by Marshall and Sparks the more singular, is the fact, that the British Minister said in that letter:—"I am willing to admit the authenticity of the speech."—[*See T. B. Wait & Son's Edition of American State Papers, vol. 1, pages* 449—453.] "But if doubt has existed before, as to the genuine character of that document, it shall no longer exist. I have myself transcribed the preceding extracts from a certified manuscript copy, discovered among the papers of Joseph Brant in my possession."—*Author of Life of Brant.*

NOTE.—If confirmation, other than that furnished by Col. Stone, is required, the papers of Gen. Israel Chapin will supply it. As superintendent of Indian affairs in this region, Gen. Chapin obtained authentic information of the extraordinary speech of Lord Dorchester a few days after it was delivered.—AUTHOR.

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gagement with the Indians, that the action commenced in what is called the Glaize, and that he had defeated and completely routed the Indians, and drove them six or seven miles down the Miami of the Lakes, below the Fort at the rapids, built by the British, and that as he passed by the Fort he demanded it, but the officer in command of it, refused to comply with his request, and he passed on without giving any damage to the Fort. Some said there was 100 Indians, some 150, some 60 and 35 killed and taken, and that the loss on Wayne's side was very great, two or three hundred. But the best information, and what I most depended on was, I lodged at what is called the Chippewa Fort, at the head of the Great Falls, at the head of the carrying place, and I overheard a Mr. Powell, who had just arrived from Detroit, relating to the officer the news of that country, and among the rest he told him he thought there was eighty or ninety Indians and white people lost in all; he said also there was no dependence to be put in the Militia of Detroit, for when Wayne was in the country they refused doing duty in the Fort. Gov. Simcoe had called out all the Militia of the country about Niagara, it was said to man the posts through or to send up to Detroit, but upon hearing that Gen. Wayne had returned back to his Forts, some were discharged, some deserted, and about sixty were kept in Barracks, so that every thing seemed to be suspended for the present. I from Niagara Fort proceeded on to the head of Lake Ontario, about twenty miles from Capt. Brant's settlement, at which place I got certain information that Capt. Brant had set off some days past for Detroit. At this place I also found he had wrote you a letter the day he started, and that a Dr. Carr had it, which I afterwards contrived to get. It was said Brant's object was to meet the Southern Indians at Detroit, though I believe he has taken 150 or 200 warriors with him, but his object will be known in a future day. I returned by Niagara and Buffalo creek. I was told at Niagara, that Gen. Simcoe would set off for Detroit in a day or two to meet Capt. Brant and the other Indians, and to strengthen the Fort at the Miami. The 13th instant Simcoe arrived at Fort Erie opposite Buffalo creek, and Col. McKay from Detroit met him there. The day following the Indians from Buffalo creek were called over to council with them. Simcoe there told them when he was going, and that he was going to make his forts strong, and to put more men in them, that if Wayne should return, he would not be able to injure them, that the fort at the Rapids was not strong, nor but a few men in it when Gen. Wayne came past it, but that he now should make it very strong, and put a great many men in it, so that he would be able to protect the Indians for the future; he told them the Indians had lost but thirty-five warriors, and five or six white men in the last engagement with Wayne, but that Wayne had lost a great many, two or three hundred men supposed, and that he would not have drove them, only the Indians were not collected. This it seems was the news Col. McKay brought, but times would soon alter, for the Indians were collecting from all quarters, and from all nations, that a greater force was already collected, and they were coming in daily, and that he observed Capt. Brant was gone with a number of warriors, and that the destination of the Indians was to give Wayne a decisive stroke, and drive them out of the country. This I was told by one of the Indians who was at the council. The next day Simcoe and McKay sailed for Detroit. After this council I saw Red Jacket, and he informed me that the Indians would all go to the treaty at Canandaigua, that the next day they would go into council among themselves, and agree upon the time they should start, and where to meet you, and in two days time they should send off runners to let you know, but that there was not the least doubt but all the Indians would attend, but my opinion is it will be fifteen or twenty days before they all collect. I cannot perceive any differ-

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ence in the Indians at Buffalo creek, they appear as friendly as ever, and I do not think they wish a disturbance with the United States, were it not for the British. As to Brant, although he is now gone away to the South, and will not attend the treaty and every appearance is hostile, yet I cannot but entertain favorable ideas of his conduct and peaceable wishes towards the United States; he acts open and candid and the part he is now acting, it appears to me, he is rather forced into it by the British, and the promises he has made to them Southern Indians heretofore, though I cannot but think from the conversation I have had with him some time past, and what I have heard in many other places, but that his real wish and desire is that a peace might be brought about between the United States, and all the Indian nations, and that although he now acts in the capacity of a warrior, that he would be as willing to take hold of the olive branch of peace, as the bloody tomahawk.

I am, Sir with respect, your most obt. and most humble servt.,

WM. EWING.

[NO. 16.]

UNPUBLISHED REMINISCENCES OF RED JACKET.

"Many years ago," says Thomas Maxwell, Esq., of Elmira, "in conversation with Red Jacket at Bath, after a little fire water had thawed his reserve, the chief remarked, that when a boy, he was present at a great council fire held on the Shenandoah. Many nations were represented by their wise men and orators, but the greatest was Logan, who had removed from the territory of his tribe to Shemokin. He was the son of Shikelleimus, a celebrated chief of the Cayuga nation, who was a warm friend of the whites before the Revolution. On the occasion alluded to, Red Jacket remarked, that he was so charmed with his manner and style of delivery, that he resolved to attain if possible, the same high standard of eloquence; though he almost despaired of equaling his distinguished model.

He said that after his return to his then home, at Kanadesaga, near Geneva, he sometimes incurred the reproofs and displeasure of his mother, by long absence from her cabin without any ostensible cause. When hard pressed for an answer he informed his mother that he had been playing Logan."

Thus in his mighty soul, the fire of a generous emulation had been kindled not to go out, until his oratorical fame threw a refulgent glory on the declining fortunes of the once formidable Iroquois. In the deep and silent forest he practiced elocution, or to use his own expressive language, played Logan, until he caught the manner and tone of his great master. What a singular revelation! Unconsciously the forest orator was an imitator of the eloquent Greek, who tuned his voice on the wild sea beach, to the thunders of the surge, and caught from nature's altar his lofty inspiration.

Not without previous preparation, and the severest discipline, did Red Jacket acquire his power of moving and melting his hearers. His graceful attitudes, significant gestures, perfect intonation, and impressive pauses, when the lifted finger and flashing eye told more than utterance, were the results of sleepless toil; while his high acquirement, was the product of stern, habitual thought, study of man, and keen observation of eternal nature.

He did not trust to the occasion alone for his finest periods, and noblest metaphors. In the armory of his capacious intellect the weapons of forensic warfare had been previously polished and stored away. Ever ready for the unfaltering tongue, was the cut-

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